ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515–6115

JOE BARTON, TEXAS
CHAIRMAN

December 3, 2004

Julie Louise Gerberding, M.D., MPH
Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Dr. Gerberding:

On November 18, 2004, you testified before the Subcommittee on Health and Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations in a joint hearing entitled "Flu Vaccine: Protecting High-Risk Individuals and Strengthening the Market." I now request your response to several additional questions (attached).

Because I wish to include the questions and responses in the printed record of this hearing, please respond no later than Friday, December 17, 2004. Please fax and e-mail the responses. The faxed response should be directed to Eugenia Edwards, Committee on Energy and Commerce majority staff, at (202) 226-2447, and Voncille Hines, Committee on Energy and Commerce minority staff, at (202) 225-5288. The e-mail copy of the response should be in MS Word format and directed to Eugenia Edwards (Eugenia.Edwards@mail.house.gov) and Voncille Hines (Voncille.Hines@mail.house.gov). Due to the uncertainties of postal deliveries on Capitol Hill, your response should not be sent through the postal service.

If you have any questions, please contact John Ford, Minority Counsel with the Committee on Energy and Commerce, at (202) 226-3400.

Sincerely,

JOHN D. DINGELL
RANKING MEMBER

Attachment

cc: The Honorable Joe Barton, Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce

The Honorable Michael Bilirakis, Chairman
Subcommittee on Health

The Honorable Sherrod Brown, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Health

The Honorable Greg Walden, Vice Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

The Honorable Peter Deutsch, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

Questions for Julie Louise Gerberding, M.D., MPH
Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
from the Honorable John D. Dingell
Committee on Energy and Commerce
regarding the November 18, 2004, Subcommittee on Health and
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations
Hearing entitled "Flu Vaccine: Protecting High-Risk Individuals and Strengthening the Market"

1. Does the Administration have plans to submit legislation aimed at assuring an adequate and reliable supply of flu vaccines? If so, please describe the basic features of the legislation. If not, please explain.

2. One of the witnesses at our hearing was Mr. Alan Rosenbloom who appeared on behalf of the American Health Care Association. He specifically requested guidance from CDC on how best to handle partial orders, or how to allocate scarce vaccine within a high risk group. Will you be providing this guidance? If so, when? If not, why not?

3. Do you feel that you have adequate resources and authority to do the job you need to do during a flu vaccine shortage?

4. Some suggest that a recommendation for universal flu vaccination -- vaccinating all Americans every year -- would be a good thing. Please tell us what you think of that suggestion.

5. One comment we heard at the hearing was that it is important for additional vaccine production capacity to be based in the United States and not somewhere else. According to this view, this is important for annual influenza vaccines, and especially important in the context of a pandemic. Do you agree? Please explain. If you agree, what policies do you think are needed to achieve that goal?

6. Please describe each of the vaccine-related programs that you work with and indicate whether you feel there are gaps or weaknesses in the current framework at the federal, state, or local levels.

7. Can you explain in detail how the Administration's $100 million request for flu vaccine activities will be spent? Did you provide input into this request? If so, what amount did you recommend?